

God's Love

In 2009 a British newspaper published the story of Bombardier Robert Key. Key died during WW II when a grenade he was holding exploded. An army report blamed Key for his own death, for 'showing off' with the grenade in the recaptured French town of Annezin in September, 1944. His family, apparently were ashamed because his service record cited 'foolish' behavior for his death, and they refused to talk about him for 65 years. But when Annezin's mayor tracked down Robert's family in their home town of Coventry in 2008, to ask permission to name a road after him, the truth began to emerge. The family discovered that Robert had in fact snatched the grenade away from a large group of children he'd found playing with it. When one boy pulled out the pin, Robert seized the grenade and fled away, clutching the grenade to his stomach to protect the children when it exploded. To this day, Robert remains a legend to the town of Annezin. Robert's nephew, Robert Furber said of the news: 'This news was amazing and completely different to anything we'd known.'

Robert's actions were made out of a desire to protect the children, not an act of folly - - - but rather of heroism and bravery.

Similarly, when Christ went to Calvary, not everyone understood what was happening there.

Jesus prayed for those executing Him: 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.'
The Jews thought they were putting to death a blasphemer.
The Romans thought they were putting to death a trouble-maker.
The disciples were bewildered and confused. 'Why is Jesus allowing this to occur?'

But when all the dust had settled, scripture gives us the authoritative assessment of the death of Christ. He died as an act of sacrifice, love and divine atonement.

John 15:13 'Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.'

It was God's love that led to the cross where our sins were cancelled out by His grace. In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he writes of this tremendous love of God for the Christians there and prays that they would be able to grasp it.

Paul prayed that the Ephesians would, "be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God." [Eph. 3:18, 19]

Take a moment to reflect on God's amazing love this week. 'In this is love, not that we loved God but He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.' [I Jn. 4:10]